



Veterans Advisory Board

February 25, 2009 – 5:05 P.M. – **Minutes**

City Hall – Ashley Room – 1st Floor

View Agenda

* * *

Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: By Dan Le Blanc, Secretary

Roll call of Members: By Dan Le Blanc, Secretary all members present with one position reported as vacant:

Nelson Ostiguy, Aide to Mayor Lang ex-officio

Dan Le Blanc, Veterans Agent, Secretary ex-officio

William Morin, WWII, 1 Year

Vacant position, WWII, 1 Year

Norman Nadeau, Korea, 1 Year

Howard Prescott, Korea, 2 Year

Raymond L'Heureux, Vietnam, 2 Year

Bruce Duarte, Vietnam, 1 Year

Tim Gregoire, Persian Gulf, 3 Year

Peter Clark, OIF/OEF, 3 Year

Crisanto DosSantos, OIF/OEF, 3 Year

Ceuma Mascarenhas, OIF/OEF, 3 Year

Robert Bromley, Non Veteran resident, 3 Year

All appointments were effective January 9, 2009. Regarding the vacant position a resignation was received by Mr. Ostiguy from Mr. Robert Hultgren who requested and was selected to participate. He has since moved to Arizona and will not be able to attend the meetings the Committee will seek a World War II New Bedford resident to replace him.

Reading of minutes from previous meeting: None

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

Reading of Communications: None

New Business: Mr. Le Blanc welcomed each of the new members of the Committee thanked them for their willingness to assist the City and introduced each member to the group. A preliminary agenda was distributed along with information on the M.G.L. Chapter 115 program and a booklet provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on Veteran benefits. Mr. Le Blanc discussed the purpose and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee that is to advise the Mayor on issues pertaining to Veterans in the City of New Bedford. Mr. Le Blanc further reported that he and Mr. Ostiguy are non-voting members of this Committee. A sign up sheet was then distributed to request all members provide telephone numbers and email addresses. It was agreed that this information would be e-mailed to all members including addresses. Mr. Le Blanc committed to distribute the minutes to all members one week before the next scheduled meeting. Committee members can also send agenda items to him via email for the next meeting as well.

Mr. Ostiguy then welcomed the members on behalf of the Mayor extending his appreciation for their willingness to assist the Mayor's office and the Veterans' Agent. He discussed the renovation of the City Hall Lobby, which is now the City Hall Veterans' Lobby and the intention to improve the lobby with other markers and service emblems. He also discussed the future expansion of the Ft. Taber/Ft. Rodman Military Museum in the South end of the City.

Mr. Bromley who is the curator of the Military Museum also spoke on this subject and encouraged those who have not yet visited the museum to do so.

Mr. Le Blanc then opened the floor for election of Officers the Committee agreed on a Chairperson and a Co-Chairperson to run the subsequent meetings. Mr. Bromley was nominated by Mr. Prescott there were no other nominations. Mr. Duarte made a ***Motion*** that nominations be closed and that the Secretary cast one vote for Mr. Bromley as Chairman seconded by Mr. Morin. ***Motion passed.*** Mr. Le Blanc and the rest of the Committee thanked Mr. Bromley for accepting the position.

Mr. Le Blanc then opened nominations for Co-Chairperson. Mr. Nadeau nominated Ms. Mascarenhas. Mr. Duarte made a ***Motion*** to close nominations seconded by Mr. Clark and that one vote be cast for Ms. Mascarenhas as the new Co-Chairperson ***Motion passed.*** Again Ms. Mascarenhas was congratulated by the Committee for her willingness to serve.

Discussion began regarding the Memorial Day and Veteran' Day Parades Committee members questioned who was responsible for these events. Mr. Le Blanc reported that the Greater New Bedford Veterans Council co-ordinate these events as well as the distribution of the Memorial Day burial flags and the wreaths. It was suggested that this be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Discussion was then held regarding place, day and time to meet. It was the unanimous decision by the Committee to meet the **fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00PM**. This should allow those who work out of town to attend the Advisory Committee meetings monthly. Mr. Le Blanc will co-ordinate with the Health Department to insure access to and reserve the conference monthly.

Mr. Prescott and Mr. Nadeau brought up the subject of the VA Outpatient Clinic; New Bedford's new call in telephone number many veterans are unable to get through or get return telephone calls in a timely manner. Mr. Le Blanc reported that this has been an ongoing problem and that he needs specific information on Veterans calling and not getting service so that he can report this to the VA Medical Center Director in Providence, R.I.

Mr. Prescott and Mr. Nadeau also reported that the Brooklawn Park Senior Center would begin hosting a monthly Veteran Forum on the first Thursday of each month at Noontime at the Brooklawn Park Senior Center.

Good of the Order: ***Motion*** to adjourn made by Mr. Duarte seconded by Mr. Morin. ***Motion passed.***

Next meeting will be held Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7:00PM, New Bedford City Hall, First floor, Ashley Conference Room, 133 Williams Street.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Donat J. "Dan" Le Blanc
Secretary